

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, and 5.

Please cancel claim 2.

Please add new claims 7 - 11.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of loading cartons in a packaging machine, the ~~method~~ comprising:

providing a plurality of ~~substantially tubular~~ cartons, each with comprising an end opening having a width less than a pitch of flight bars of the packaging machine;

detachably affixing the plurality of cartons to one another, such that the ~~but having a~~ combined end opening width of the detachably affixed cartons are equal to the pitch of the flight bars of the packaging machine; and

facilitating placement of ~~adjacent erected ones of said plurality of cartons~~ the plurality of detachably affixed cartons between the flight bars; and

detaching the plurality of cartons from one another after the plurality of cartons have been loaded.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of cartons ~~are provided~~ remain detachably affixed to one another when the plurality of cartons are in a collapsed condition.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of cartons have end openings of equal width.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of loading cartons in a packaging machine, the ~~method comprising:~~

providing a plurality of ~~substantially tubular~~ cartons, each of said plurality of cartons comprising with an end opening having a width less than a pitch of flight bars of the packaging machine;

detachably affixing the plurality of cartons to one another, such that the ~~but having a combined end opening width of the detachably affixed cartons are equal to the pitch of the packaging machine; wherein said plurality of cartons are provided in a collapsed condition detachably affixed to one another such that they are manipulated by the packaging machine as if a unitary carton; and~~

facilitating placement of the plurality of detachably affixed ~~erected ones of said plurality~~ of cartons between the flight bars,

wherein said plurality of detachably affixed cartons are provided in a collapsed condition prior to being placed in the packaging machine, such that they are manipulated by the packaging machine for placement between the flight bars as if they are a unitary carton; and

detaching the plurality of cartons from one another after the plurality of cartons have been loaded.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said plurality of cartons have end openings of equal width.

7. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the plurality of cartons are detachably affixed to one another by an adhesive.

8. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of cartons are detachably affixed to one another by an adhesive.

9. (New) A composite carton, comprising:

a first carton comprising a first end opening having a first width that is less than the width of at least one pair of flight bars of a packaging machine;

a second carton comprising at least one end opening having a width that is less than the width of the at least one pair the flight bars of the packaging machine,

such that the first carton and the second carton are detachably affixed to one another, so that the combined width of the at least one end opening of the first carton and the at least one end opening of the second carton is equal to the width of the at least one pair of flight bars of the packaging machine, and

wherein the first carton may be detached from the second carton after the composite carton has been loaded.

B 10. (New) The composite carton of claim 9, wherein the first carton and the second carton are detachably affixed using an adhesive.

11. (New) The composite carton of claim 9, wherein the first carton and second carton are provided in a collapsed condition prior to being placed in the packaging machine, such that they are manipulated by the packaging machine for placement between the flight bars as if they are a unitary carton.
